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Oil Levels in Forks

It is important to remember that the relationship between oil level and progression is not linear but exponential. In other words: adding 20ml more oil may not make a huge difference the first time, but by adding another 20ml you may suddenly find the fork becomes very hard deeper in the stroke. Double the amount of oil does not double the air pressure relationship but would increase it to an exponent of around 2.6 times. This explains why your fork becomes harder and harder as it compresses the more oil you add, but initial

fork stroke remains similar. If you add too much oil your fork will become very uncomfortable and hard as it compresses.

Below is a graph which shows the effect of adding oil. It is easy to see by the graph how the initial part of the fork stroke is not affected too much in both examples. As pressure builds up in the fork with the smaller air volume (higher oil level) it gets much more progressive than the fork with the larger air volume (lower oil level).

So feel free to experiment with oil volume, but as mentioned before stick within the maximum and

minimum levels in your manual. I recommend using the standard oil level or amount as this has been carefully worked out to match the damping and springs in your fork. If you experiment make 10ml changes at a time in order to feel the effect. Be warned you may find your fork suddenly becomes way too hard if you add a little too much oil.

